


**CAUSES OF HIGH DROP OUTS RATE IN SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN
KIANZABE DIVISION MATUNGULU DISTRICT IN MACHAKOS COUNTY**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Despite the rapid growth of education in Kenya since independence, retention and completion of the education system has been a major and great constraint in both primary and secondary educations. Many young people have been dropping out of school before completing primary and secondary levels. National leaders have been demanding that communities and families take major steps to retain pupils and students but drop out crisis has remained as a major challenge to them. Today the completion of basic education system i.e primary and secondary level has become a prerequisite for any learner. The economic consequences of leaving school without a certificate or diploma are severe. This research project is aimed at investigating the causes of high drop out rates in primary schools within Kianzabe Division of Matungulu District. This study considered the upper classes in selected primary schools to establish the main causes of high drop out rates in this region. The study used questionnaires and interview guides to the learners, teachers, parents, school administrators and other education stakeholders. Researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative data with an aim of coming up with a descriptive survey. The views from the interviewees were used to establish the main causes of high drop out rates in this area and also helped the researcher to make recommendations how to curb the problem of high drop out rates in schools. The researcher has found out that lack of finances, pregnancy among many girls, foreseen wastage and child labour are among the main causes of dropping out of school. It is in the view of this that the researcher recommended for the abolition of child labour, the establishment of guidance and counseling unit in each school. The researcher also recommended that parents be deeply involved in the affairs of children while in school, that is they should always keep track on what the teachers and learners are doing while at school.